

REMARKS

In the outstanding Official Action, claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Claims 1 and 10 were otherwise indicated to be allowable, if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 2-9 and 11-17 were individually indicated to be allowable, if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of base and intervening claims.

Initially, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of each of the pending claims, if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Upon entry of the present amendment, the claims of the present application will have been amended to more clearly recite the features of the claimed invention. Each of the informalities noted in the outstanding Official Action will have been eliminated (although Applicants note that several of the informalities in the dependent claims noted by the Examiner will have been remedied by the amendments to the independent claims). Claim 17 will have been canceled.

Applicants note that claims 2-9 and 11-16 have not been rewritten or amended to include the limitations of base and intervening claims. However, Applicants respectfully submit that each of these claims is allowable at least for depending from an allowable independent claim, as well as for reasons related to their own recitations.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of each of claims 1-17.

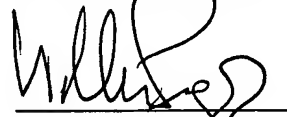
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully request an indication to that effect. Applicants have amended the claims to more clearly recite the features of the present invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection, as well as an indication of the allowability of each of the claims now pending in due course.

The amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
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